

1 February 1973

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT Some Suggestions for Delineating the TSD and ORD
 Role and Aims in a Joint Paranormal Investigation

1. During today's meeting with the TSD representatives our purpose should be to define with them the role ORD can most appropriately play in supplementing their existing project, our respective functions/goals in the proposed joint approach and how we can most effectively work together in achieving them.

2. Before we can address ourselves to these matters, however, there are a number of practical questions which we should try to clarify with TSD--viz:

- the status of their current project with SRI: terms, timing, stated goals, contractual commitments on both sides;

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It may well be that the TSD representatives will have a number of equally searching questions for us, questions which would have to be answered candidly before any serious discussions could begin. I can only imagine that they might be in the following general areas: Is ORD prepared to put money into the project and, if so, in what general magnitude? What is ORD's present view on the legitimacy/significance/application of the phenomena? What would be ORD's goal/purpose in joining the investigation? What (in addition to funds) could ORD contribute to the process--e.g., in the form of staff time and expertise, other contractual resources? What is ORD's view on the ultimate feasibility of understanding/controlling/applying the phenomena?

3. Once the above and/or other questions are dealt with as frankly and completely as possible, we can address ourselves to the broad outlines of our mutual roles in the proposed joint project (NOTE: I believe that the detailed mechanics should be discussed only after other action is taken, see para 4 below). As a point of departure on the basic issue, one which seems consistent with our

respective charters, we might suggest that:

TSD's primary concern should be with the physical or psychical manifestations of the phenomena themselves (what the Subjects are ^{ABLE} to do) and with the question of immediate or mid-term practical operational exploitation of such skills or talents (i.e., loosely 'applied' research);

while ORD's primary concern should be to study the underlying dynamics of the phenomena (and of the Subjects) in order to arrive at the kind of understanding which might permit mid- to longrange capacities for optimal exploitation by developing techniques for identifying the essential attributes in others and programs for surfacing/controlling/enhancing/applying the skills or powers (i.e., loosely 'basic' research).

Obviously, at the outset at least, these two efforts would go hand-in-hand and the project would be physically as well as conceptually a 'joint' one; but, should we establish incontrovertible evidence of the existence of the phenomena, it is likely that the activities and the paths of research would begin to diverge. By that time, hopefully, we would be on a sounder footing with the original Subjects and may have found other cooperative Subjects (from the point of view of 'basic' research it seems that the widest possible Subject population will give us the best chance of identifying the critical variables).

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4. Once agreement is reached on the above, the logical next step would be for TSD/ORD to host (at [REDACTED] perhaps) a highly informal preliminary conference with Agency personnel who have the most legitimate interest in the subject and the most substantive contribution to make. (NOTE, the conferees might include: Mr

SG1I [REDACTED] and representatives from OMS and the Offices of Security and Commo.) Preceded by a brief yet provocative memo, the purpose of this conference would be to ensure that all legitimate interests and ideas are considered before we address ourselves to project design. Each member should be prepared to speak to a number of questions--e.g.: What significance do you (your office) see in these phenomena for your special area of interest? What practical (offensive and/or defensive) application can you envisage? What kinds of questions would you want to see answered by our investigations? What kinds of experiments might be crucial from the point of view of your special interests? What kinds of laboratory and/or analytical-statistical controls would you like to see instituted? What kinds of non-phenomena (medical/behavioral, etc) testing of the Subjects would you like to suggest? With the results of such a conference in hand TSD and ORD could confidently proceed to structure the design and content of the project.

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